

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*Examiner:* Langdon, E.

*Art Unit:* 3654

*In re:*

*Applicant:* STROEBEL, W., et al

*Serial No.:* 10/517,789

*Filed:* December 13, 2004

**A M E N D M E N T**

November 28, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action of October 10, 2006.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the U.S. patent to Hashimoto.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the claims and discussions with the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the Hashimoto reference can not be considered as a valid reference because the present application has an earlier priority date.

With the present communication applicants submitted a translation of the priority document. It is therefore believed that the patent to Hashimoto can not be considered as a valid reference, and the rejection of this claim over this reference should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

*/ Michael J. Striker /*

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